

# ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.

## THE GAZETTE.

TUESDAY MORNING, September 11, 1860.

### GENTLEMEN'S SWEARERS.

It is not pleasant to admit that the world is getting worse instead of better, or that any reprehensible habit is becoming more prevalent and common. Especially in a Christian land, and under the influence of the pure religion of which Americans are somewhat inclined to boast, one might look for a higher style of morals and a more uniform outward regard for sacred things. But the world's standard is lower than it used to be when men were less enlightened. The catalogues of moral sins and of venial offences have changed their proportions as we have grown in wisdom. So long as we desire to retain a respectable social position, we are called upon to abstain from murder, except it be done according to the code, and theft and lying are acknowledged to be offenses against society. The devaluer has dwindled down to these narrow limits, and in the place of the comprehensive law that applied to all relations and circumstances of life, public opinion has established another code, stringent enough, it may be, but which only affects to regulate actions that have no moral quality whatever.

To discuss the subject of profane swearing, even upon this low ground, it would be difficult to show how the practice is preferable to the swearing. If it is important that an excited individual should get off extra steam by the agency of such safety valves, why would not some more innocent explosive answer as well as an oath? Or is nothing else will do in the moment of strong excitement, now does it pay to disregard the name that is above all other names in ordinary conversation—to play with the royal titles of the King of Kings as though he were some idle divinity? If there is profit in the practice, we have never been able to find it out.

There are great numbers of men in the world who are weak enough to allow profanity and to teach the sooty of the chivalrous gentleman who cannot utter a sentence without one or more blasphemies in it. If the influence of these squeamish individuals should ever happen to be necessary to the habitual swearer, he is tolerably certain to go without it. If the good opinion of the mass has any value, it is great folly to throw it away for the sake of a momentary gratification. Very young men swear because they desire to look manly and important, and in our day the quantity and quality of the blasphemes are generally in inverse proportion to the age of the wearer. There is some show of reason about this, but the matured man must find a better excuse. We wear beads now-a-days, and the hirsute adornments that Dame Nature furnishes, better prove our manhood than any quantity of lip-pant appeal to the deity can do.

The time was when one of the most invidible marks by which the gentleman was distinguished from the blackguard, was the total avoidance of profane expressions on the part of the former. We know that swearing was a fashionable vice with some of our ancestors. The Court of the first Charles was a vast manufacturing of blasphemies, and the gallant cavaliers of that day swore by exact rule. But the tremendous illuminations which they had invented in more peaceful times were of very little use at Marston Moor and Naseby. And the descendants of the men who were victors in those battles, settled in America and brought with them a stricter code of morals, and the swearer was rebuffed upon principle. Whatever may be said about those old worthies, they were certainly men of purer fiber than their degenerate successors are apt to believe, and the power of their example was felt through one or two generations. A low fellow was expected to call down curses upon his own head, and he was an outcast because he swore, but no gentleman was guilty of a practice that was considered utterly degrading.

If there is no God of the universe, it is great nonsense to swear by him, and to lug in His name to strengthen an argument or to polish a sentence. And if there is—One is bound to suppose, noting the fall of a sparrow, and holding the lightest words of import—some better bird should be banded than His reverend name—*Bird*, *Jesus*.

The editor of the Cincinnati Times recently visited Solomon Langford, at Rising Sun, Indiana, who was born in New York, when it was a town of five or six hundred houses, in 1725. He is now 125 years old.

Dr Barton, on being told that Mr. Vowell was dead, exclaimed, "What! Vowell dead? Let us be thankful it was neither *not* nor *not*."

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY COURT, September 12, 1860.—A writ of election was issued to be executed on the 15th day of this month, for the Second District of this County, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the failure of George Vetch to qualify, and the Court hath adjourned the same to the First Megistrial District of this County, on the fourth Friday in May last.

A COPY—To—E. H. BERRY, Clerk. The Commissioners setting on the fourth Thursday in May last, were S. Lafayette Stevens, Moses A. Folger, Harvey Bailey, Richard Williams, and Richard Southern, and the Commissioners, No. 1—S. W. MEYENBERG, No. 2—

CENTRAL SCHOOLS, Alexandria. THE EXERCISES of this School will be resumed on Monday, the 1st of September next. The course of instruction is intended to develop the intellectual, social, and moral faculties, and by imparting a thorough practical, accomplished and Christian education, at the popular and the youthful discharge of the responsible duties that await her in life.

The new and beautiful buildings, erected during the last session expressly for this Seminary, are located in the most elegant and healthy part of the city.

The best professors are engaged for the departments of Music, French, and Ornamental branches. Remuneration—Rev. James T. Johnston, Alexandria, Va.; Rev. George H. Norton, Rev. N. S. Greenway, Rev. A. M. Lovell, Middleburg, Va.; Rev. Dr. P. Nason, Rev. Dr. Rogers, W. Lewis, W. W. Morrison, Va.; J. M. Stevens, Jr., Alexandria, Va.; Mrs. L. Brown, Jr., Charleston, Va.; Mrs. E. TEBBS, Alexandria, Va., and others.

WESTWORTH FEMALE SEMINARY, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

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MISS ELLIE MARKS SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION of this Institution, will commence on the 18th of September next. Those who purpose sending their children, will please apply for admission at early date.

MRS. MC CORMICK having removed to the house lately occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Storer, opposite the residence of friends and the public generally, she has considerably increased and greatly improved her arrangements for the accommodation and due care of pupils, and will resume the duties of her School on Tuesday, September 18th.

The course of study pursued will comprise all the branches requisite to a thorough English education, and native French, Drawing and Painting if desired.

In addition to day scholars, she is desirous of receiving into her family a few pupils as boarders, who will receive more immediate care and oversight.

MISS ELLIE MARKS' INSTITUTE, IRVINGTOWN, NEW YORK.—The exercises of this Institution will be resumed on the 18th instant. Circulars containing references, terms, fees, apply for residence, No. 150, King street, and 11—see her ad.

ALEXANDRIA FEMALE SEMINARY, IRVINGTOWN, NEW YORK.—The exercises of this Institution will be resumed on the 18th instant. Circulars containing references, terms, fees, apply for residence, No. 150, King street, and 11—see her ad.

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